GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2490
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2000
LEASING OF COAL MINES TO PRIVATE SECTOR
P.D. ELANGOVAN

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to lease out some of the Coal Mines to Private Sector Companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the income to be generated thereby, State-wise;

(c) whether the foreign Mines experts are being engaged in the survey, study as well as exploitation of Coal Mines in India; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COAL (SHRI N.T.SHANMUGAM)

(a) to (d): The Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Amendment Bill, 2000 has been introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 24.4.2000 with the objective of amending the relevant provisions of the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 for the following purposes:-

i) To allow the Indian companies to mine coal without the existing restriction of captive consumption.

ii) To allow the Indian companies to be engaged in exploration of coal resources.

Operation of the Indian companies for non-captive mining of coal and exploration of coal resources can commence only if the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Amendment Bill, 2000 is passedby the Parliament. Therefore, it is not possible to give the details of such private Indian companies and income to be generated by them State-wise at this stage. The Bill does not have any provision to allow foreign companies in exploration of coal resources in the country. The prospecting licences for exploration of coal as well as mining leases for mining of coal are granted by the respective State Governments.